

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 065725

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 PC-01 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01
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DRAFTED BY ARA/AND - SUE PATTERSON/M/CT:RPMYERS:LEE
APPROVED BY M/CT AMBASSADOR HECK
ARA/AND/C - MR. COX
PEACE CORPS:DBRINKMAN

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P 242140Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, CASC, CO

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF PCV STARR: MOTHER APPEALS TO
COLOMBIANS

1. MRS. JENSEN, ACCOMPANIED BY PEACE CORPS AND STATE
REPS, CALLED ON ACTING CHIEF OF MISSION JAIME LOPEZ MARCH
22 AT MRS. JENSEN'S REQUEST. MEETING WAS RELATIVELY BRIEF
BUT CORDIAL. MRS. JENSEN STATED SHE HELD THE GOC RESPONSIB-
LE FOR HER SON'S SAFE RETURN, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE WAS
IN COLOMBIA AS A PCV AT INVITATION OF GOC. SHE SAID SHE
HAD REQUESTED MEETING WITH COLOMBIAN REPRESENTATIVE SO THAT
SHE COULD BE ASSURED THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE WAS BEING
DONE FOR HER SON.

2. LOPEZ ASSURED HER THAT THE GOC WAS ACCEPTING ITS
RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT POINTED OUT THE LIMITS OF ITS ABIL-
ITY TO DO MUCH RIGHT NOW, PARTICULARLY IN ABSENCE OF ANY
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PAGE 02 STATE 065725

WORD FROM THE KIDNAPPERS. LOPEZ DEFTLY BROUGHT UP SUBJECT
OF COLOMBIAN STUDENT, WHO WAS SEIZED DURING HANAFI MUSLIM
OCCUPATION OF WASHINGTON MOSQUE TWO WEEKS AGO, IRRESPECTIVE
OF COLOMBIA'S HAVING NOTHING WHATEVER TO DO WITH THE
HANAFI COMPLAINTS. HE NOTED THE HANAFIS REFUSED TO RE-
LEASE HIM ANY SOONER THAN THE OTHERS DESPITE EFFORTS TO
HAVE VIV RELEASED.

3. MRS. JENSEN APPEARED TO ACCEPT LIMITATIONS OF GOC'S POWERS AT THIS POINT. SHE MENTIONED TO LOPEZ, HOWEVER, THAT SHE WAS PLANNING TO SEND AN APPEAL TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ.

4. SUBSEQUENT TO HER CALL AT COLOMBIAN EMBASSY, MRS. JENSEN WROTE FOLLOWING LETTER TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ:

5. QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: AS THE MOTHER OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER RICHARD STARR, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED IN YOUR COUNTRY ON FEBRUARY 14, I IMPORE YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT TO DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO ASSURE THE SAFE AND EARLY RELEASE OF MY BELOVED SON. SINCE RICHARD'S CAPTURE MORE THAN A MONTH AGO, I HAVE RECEIVED NO WORD CONCERNING HIS WELFARE OR WHEREABOUTS. AS A MOTHER, I AM PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED ABOUT HIM, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE I KNOW THAT HE WAS SERIOUSLY ILL AT THE TIME OF HIS CAPTURE.

RICHARD HAS ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN THE STUDY OF PLANTS AND HE WAS DOING BOTANICAL RESEARCH AT THE TIME OF HIS KIDNAPPING. I HOPE THAT THOSE HOLDING HIM WILL COME TO RECOGNIZE HIS LOVE OF SCIENCE AND HIS PURE DEDICATION TO THE COLOMBIAN PEOPLE. IF THEY DO, SURELY THEY WILL RELEASE HIM.

RICHARD IS MY ONLY CHILD. I HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR COUNTRYMEN WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SEE TO IT THAT HE IS SAFELY RETURNED TO HIS FAMILY. RESPECTFULLY, (SIGNED) MRS. CHARLOTTE JENSEN END QUOTE.

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PAGE 03 STATE 065725

6. MRS. JENSEN'S LETTER WAS DELIVERED TO COLOMBIAN EMBASSY ON MARCH 25. IT SHOULD ARRIVE IN BOGOTA VIA POUCH SOMETIME NEXT WEEK. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY DISCRETELY REFERRING TO IT DURING THEIR CONTACTS WITH COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY REPS. HOPEFULLY, GOC CAN BE ENCOURAGED TO RESPOND IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER TO MRS. JENSEN'S CALL ON COLOMBIAN CHARGE HERE AND HER MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ.

7. IN ADDITION TO LETTER TO PRESIDENT LOPEZ AND KNAPSACK FOR RICHARD WHICH MRS. JENSEN DELIVERED TO RED CROSS ON MARCH 17, MRS. JENSEN WONDERS WHETHER, GIVEN TIME THAT HAS NOW PASSED, IT MIGHT BE PROFITABLE FOR HER TO TRY TO SEND A PRIVATE APPEAL FOR HELP IN SECURING RICHARD'S RELEASE TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN COLOMBIA THAT WOULD COINCIDE WITH EASTER HOLIDAYS. WE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR REACTION TO THIS IDEA AND HOW IT MIGHT BEST BE CARRIED OUT.

8. MRS. JENSEN CLEARLY DOES NOT WISH TO LEAVE ANY STONE
UNTURNED DURING HER STAY IN WASHINGTON AREA. FOR EXAMPLE,
SHE MET WITH HER CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS ON MARCH 24.
FOR THE MOMENT SHE APPEARS TO BE SATISFIED THAT USG IS
DOING ALL IT CAN TO EFFECT HER SON'S RELEASE. SHE IS
TALKING OF RETURNING HOME AND HAS APPARENTLY ABANDONED
IDEA OF TRAVELLING TO BOGOTA AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE065725
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SUE PATTERSON/M/CT:RPMYERS:LEE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770101-1145
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770325/aaaaavka.tel
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Review Date: 04-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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